**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

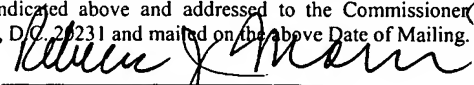
Re Application of: John Erickson, et al.  
Serial No. 10/627,233  
Filing Date: July 25, 2003  
Examiner: Unknown  
Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Title: BENDABLE NEEDLE WITH REMOVABLE STYLET

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Certification Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8**

Date of Mailing: December 18, 2003

I hereby certify that I have caused the documents indicated herein to be deposited with the United States Postal Service to Addressee" under 37 CFR § 1.8 on the date indicated above and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 and mailed on the above Date of Mailing.

  
Rebecca J. Morrison

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, that the art listed on the attached PTO-1449 form be considered and cited in the examination of the above-identified application. A copy of the art is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

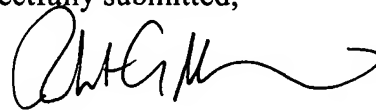
Citation of the documents shall not be construed as:

- 1) an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
- 2) a representation that a search has been made, other than as described above; or
- 3) an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

While Applicants believe no fees are due, if any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2240 of Koestner Bertani, LLP.

Should the Examiner have any questions or desire further clarification, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below. Please reference Attorney Docket No. 1027.P007USC1.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Robert A. McLauchlan  
Reg. No. 44,924

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

Dated: December 18, 2003

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FORM PTO-1449 US Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT          BY APPLICANT</b> (Use Several Sheets if Necessary)	Docket Number 1027.P007USC1	Serial Number 10/627,233
	Filing Date July 25, 2003	Group Art Unit Not yet assigned

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINE R INITIAL	X	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	3,844,292	10/29/74	Bolduc	128	418	06/09/72
	A2	3,854,473	12/17/74	Matsuo	128	8	05/29/73
	A3	4,013,080	03/22/77	Froning	128	347	06/05/75
	A4	4,793,326	12/27/88	Shishido	128	4	12/01/87
	A5	4,936,312	06/26/90	Tsukagoshi	128	749	11/09/88
	A6	5,127,917	07/07/92	Niederhauser et al.	606	191	05/17/90
	A7	5,234,451	08/10/93	Osypka	606	159	11/15/91
	A8	5,336,191	08/09/94	Davis et al.	604	165	08/13/92
	A9	5,387,233	02/07/95	Alferness et al.	607	126	11/03/93
	A10	5,522,874	06/04/96	Gates	607	127	07/28/94
	A11	5,522,875	06/04/96	Gates et al.	607	127	07/28/94
	A12	5,531,781	07/02/96	Alferness et al.	607	122	11/02/93
	A13	5,669,882	09/23/97	Pyles	604	164	04/23/96
	A14	5,954,672	09/21/99	Schwager	600	585	12/11/97
	A15	6,104,960	08/15/00	Duysens et al.	607	117	07/13/98
	A16	6,146,338	11/14/00	Gardeski et al.	600	585	04/23/99

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	X	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	B1							X
	B2							X

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**  
 (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

C1	
C2	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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